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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19535

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1997 • ADAR II 9, 5757 • 10-THU AL-QADAH 1417

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

British elections set for May 1

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Surveyors to work at Har Homa today

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

The long-awaited construction on Har Homa is set to begin today, according to a government source, with surveyors expected to arrive this morning to begin charting the land for a squadron of bulldozers that are standing ready nearby. The source said the bulldozers will likely start work no later than tomorrow.

No-confidence motion defeated, Page 2 US warns of terror, Page 2

"I hope and believe that construction on Har Homa will begin tomorrow," Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa was quoted by Itim as saying in Eilat, where he was attending a conference. "We decided to begin this week and we will not retreat from that decision. When a decision in principle is made, we have an obligation to follow through."

"We took the possibility of disturbances into account. We don't have much to lose, while the other side does."

In anticipation of the government's decision, the first of many protests that are sure to confront the construction over the next two years got under way yesterday, when Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini and a dozen Palestinians pitched tents on a hilltop facing Har Homa.

"We decided we will have a tent here to watch what is going on over there," Husseini said, pointing towards Har Homa. "If they start building, we will use all peaceful means to stop them, starting by making phone calls, talking to people who are responsible for these matters. We will stand in front of the bulldozers—whatever we can do in a peaceful way, we're going to do."

About 100 soldiers were stationed near the tents, but they only watched the peaceful protest and the waves of media that ascended the hill.

More demonstrations are expected to follow the ground breaking, with Peace Now planning a large demonstration at 4 p.m. on the day the bulldozers begin.

Husseini said Palestinians are very angry at the planned construction.

"Israelis are using explosive materials to incite the people. Every day they are coming with a new provocation. They are pushing toward an explosion, but I don't know when, how, what will be the direct reasons. But there are many indirect reasons," he said.

He said the atmosphere felt like it did in the days before the intifada.

"I can smell the same scents we smelled before the uprising," he said.

The protest came on the day that final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians were to resume. Jawad Boulos, the legal adviser for Orient House, said he was "very sad to see that instead of going further in the final stage [of talks], the Israelis are attempting to take such provocative actions."

He said the gathering on the hilltop was "a matter of protesting, nothing more, to put this issue on the daily agenda of the people."

To head off any possible trouble, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday ordered forces deployed along the perimeter in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

A Jerusalem police spokesman said last night that police are prepared for any eventuality "once the decision is made to begin construction."



IDF soldiers yesterday approach a tent Palestinians set up opposite Har Homa to protest against construction plans for the Jerusalem hilltop. (Reuters)

Hizbullah says it's looking for Arad

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah is trying to determine the whereabouts of missing IAF navigator Ron Arad, according to the organization's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

He maintained in an interview with the Beirut English-language Daily Star that Hizbullah is anxious to locate Arad in order to exchange him for Lebanese prisoners held by Israel.

Nasrallah indicated that the organization is not holding Arad, but wishes to make a deal with his captors that also would lead to the release of Lebanese prisoners.

He also criticized the ineffectual efforts of the Lebanese government and the international community to secure the prisoners' release.

Nasrallah said that German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer would return to the region the minute there is information on Arad's whereabouts.

Schmidbauer, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, was responsible for negotiating the deal that led to the return of the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rabamim Alsheikh last July.

The two were killed and their bodies taken by Hizbullah gunmen during an ambush on a joint IDF and South Lebanese Army convoy near Bint Jbail in the security zone in 1986.

Their bodies and 17 SLA soldiers held by Hizbullah were exchanged for 45 Lebanese held in the El-Khijam jail in the security zone and the remains of 141 gunmen killed in clashes with the IDF and SLA since 1986.

"The [Schmidbauer] mission was a two-part series," Nasrallah said.

Continued on Page 3

HU researcher develops no-shot flu vaccine

By JUDY SIEGEL

The world's first influenza vaccine in the form of nose drops has been found safe and effective.

The successful clinical trials were announced yesterday by Prof. Zichria Zakay-Rones, a senior virologist at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, who headed a team that has worked on the new vaccine delivery system for six years.

The breakthrough vaccine, if manufactured on a mass scale, would be a boon, as many people at high-risk avoid getting a flu injection. One would merely need to get a few drops in the nose each year for protection.

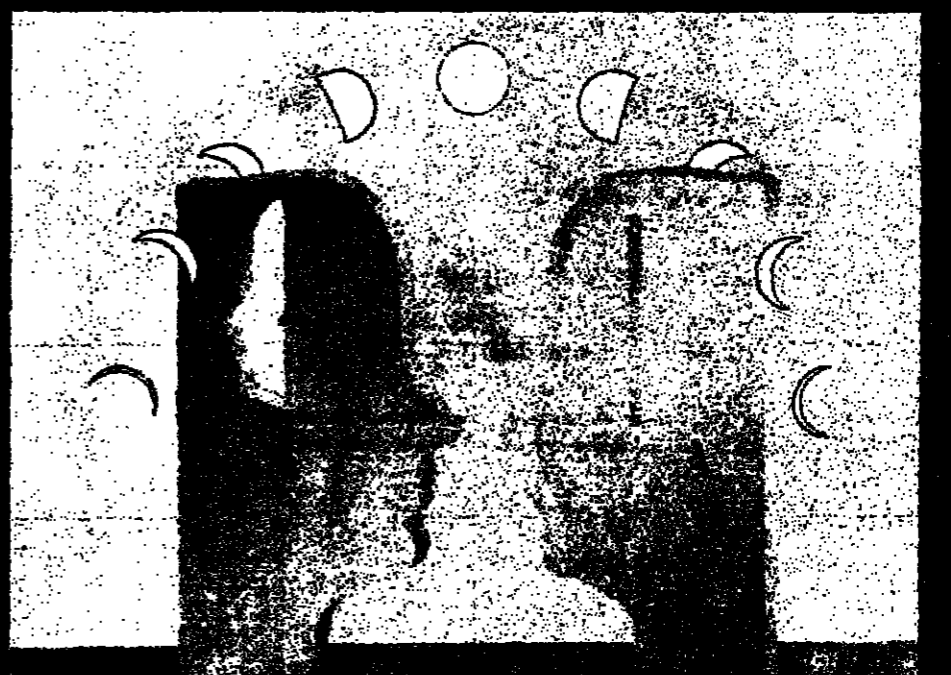
Zakay-Rones said she didn't know when the nose-drop vaccine would become commercially available, as the process of getting

approval by the US Food and Drug Administration and other government bodies is expensive and laborious. However, she added, negotiations are currently being conducted by the university's research and development arm, Yissum, and an application for a US patent has been presented.

The vaccine previously was found effective against flu in mice; it now has been tested on 51 medical students, 24 of them given one dose and the others two doses. None suffered side effects, and a single dose was enough to provide immunity. Some of the students have expressed interest in participating in further trials next winter, which will involve more people, some of them over the

Continued on Page 3

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No-confidence bid fails

By LIAT COLLINS

After debating whether to raise its no-confidence motion during the week of mourning for the Beit Shemesh schoolgirls, the Labor faction submitted a motion yesterday titled "The Government's Deficiencies." It was defeated, as expected, by 46 to 54.

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin was absent, having stated he has no confidence in the premier. Uzi Landau (Likud) and Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) were also noticeably absent. Efraim Sneh, a candidate for the Labor party leadership, presented the motion, attacking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies despite constant coalition heckling.

He said Har Homa should be built, "but wisely, through dialogue and taking the problems of the other side into account. Not through showing off and the obsession to reach a confrontation at any price to prove something."

He accused the prime minister of constantly giving in to pressure. "Ultimately, Har Homa will not be built; we'll be isolated internationally; there will be needless bloodshed; and the peace process will be stalled," Sneh said. "It might be good for the coalition, but not for the country or Jerusalem."

He said the prime minister is stuck in a trap trying to please both the world's leaders and his own coalition members.

In a dig at Netanyahu over the years he spent in the US, Sneh added: "The problem is we're not living in the Upper West Side of Manhattan, but in the Middle East."

Netanyahu, sitting in the plenum, dismissed Sneh's words with a wave of his hand.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat responded for the government, addressing Labor MKs who were leaving the chamber one by one. "I would have expected backup from the Labor

Party on all things relating to Jerusalem," she said. "I don't expect its support on everything."

"The opposition is the opposition; that's democracy. But I do expect the Labor Party to act responsibly on Jerusalem. I hear Sneh talking about 'the need to take the other side into account,' [but] for me and most of the Labor Party members, I thought, with regard to Jerusalem, there is no other side. There is only one sovereign in Jerusalem and that's Israel."

The Labor faction argued for several hours yesterday over whether to follow Meretz's lead and not submit a no-confidence motion during the mourning period. On Sunday they decided to go ahead, but yesterday three MKs - Ori Orr, Avi Yehezkel, and Sofia Landver - had second thoughts.

"We need more unity during a week like this," said Orr, while Yehezkel said the party would appear in a bad light, particularly

among voters it is trying to recover who abandoned it in the last elections.

Hagai Merom rejected a suggestion the party wait a week, saying, "By then we might have reasons for another week of mourning."

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres criticized the critics, stating: "What's mourning got to do with it? If we say that bulldozers shouldn't start work [on Har Homa] does that harm the mourning? What is this? We keep delegitimizing ourselves. We're not holding a party in the Knesset. We're exercising our elementary right."

Uzi Baram complained that no member of the opposition was invited to accompany or meet with King Hussein on his visit on Sunday, saying the government had cynically exploited the king's condolence call. Faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen sent a letter of protest on the subject to the prime minister.

AT THE KNESSET

Eitan complains of Hebron sewage

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Raphael Eitan told the Knesset yesterday that sewage from the Hebron area is polluting groundwater supplies in the Beersheba and south Hebron Hills area. Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe refuses to operate a sewage treatment facility "for political reasons" on the grounds that some of the retreated water would be used by Jewish farmers, Eitan said.

He also said the Palestinians are refusing to sign on a project under which the German government would finance a sewage treatment plant for Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Beit Sahur.

He said the government must find a way of forcing the Palestinian Authority to stop the

pollution, either by making it a condition in drinking water allocation or deducting money from the funds forwarded to the PA.

Bronfman: Interior Ministry must accept immigrants' birthdays

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Roman Bronfman has submitted a bill which would force the Interior Ministry to accept the declared dates of birth of new immigrants. He said that lately the ministry has been arbitrarily recording the dates of birth of immigrants from those countries where there are no proper records, mainly putting the date down as January 1 even when the immigrants say they know the correct date.

"A birthday is part of a per-

son's identity," Bronfman said. "And you can't just dictate it."

Subcommittee aims for more efficient caucusing

The Knesset subcommittee on Knesset caucuses, chaired by MK Hagai Merom (Labor), met for the first time yesterday to discuss ways in which lobbying in the Knesset can be carried out to complement rather than circumvent Knesset committees.

Among other things, it was decided that when government officials are invited to address caucus meetings the invitations will be shown to the relevant minister and committee head and it will be noted that the meeting is not a committee meeting.

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Dr LUDWIG WECHSLER

Hilda Wechsler and all the family
Haifa, March 17, 1997

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US: PA will permit terror if Har Homa goes ahead

Members of Hamas emerged from a meeting with Palestinian Authority officials in Gaza on March ninth convinced that the PA would acquiesce to a terror attack against Israel if it went ahead and used bulldozers at Har Homa, US officials say.

Hamas' perception was reinforced immediately after that meeting when the PA released from prison Ibrahim Makadmah, a leading Hamas militant and suspected terrorist.

At last Friday's cabinet meeting, cabinet-level sources say General Security Service head Ami Ayalon said Arafat, provisionally "gave the green light" to Hamas to conduct an attack as well as signalled to other Palestinian opposition groups to conduct protests against Israel if the Netanyahu government goes ahead with work at Har Homa. However, US officials are uncertain whether Arafat even attended the March ninth meeting.

When queried directly about whether he has issued such instructions, Arafat has denied doing so.

At his last meeting with Arafat several weeks ago, officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that Netanyahu complained about the release of 25 Islamic militants. Israel charges they were released against the recommendation of the Palestinian preventive security services, let alone Israeli security services.



Defusing tension
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) meets yesterday with Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath in Tel Aviv in a bid to reduce tension. (Reuters)

Hanegbi won't retract remarks on Arafat

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday refused to retract his harsh remarks about Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat or phrase them differently, despite being blasted for them by both Arab and opposition leaders, as well as ministers.

"I didn't make any threats," Hanegbi said. "The State of Israel does not need to remain silent while its negotiating partner gives a green light to terror attacks against it. This is a total violation of the agreement, and things can't continue this way."

On Saturday night, Hanegbi had told Likud activists that "if Arafat exerts force against us, it will be the end of the peace process. Our reaction will reach Arafat himself. Arafat will not be able to continue living peacefully in a villa on the coast with [his wife] Suha. If it's war, then it's all the way."

"Arafat and his people," Hanegbi continued yesterday, "must understand that in our lexicon, it is impossible to lump the words 'peace' and 'terror' together. If it's peace, then the only way to resolve disputes is through talking and mutual persuasion."

"Even if there is no mutual persuasion—and on the Jerusalem issue, mutual persuasion is apparently impossible—we must move forward on those issues over which there is no dispute. It is impossible to open the arsenal and begin to spill blood without thinking this will have no influence on the political process." (him)

MDA steps up sanctions

Magen David Adom's supply of blood to hospitals will be reduced starting today, as MDA workers protest against management's failure to pay a special allotment earned by hospital lab workers and biochemists. These sanctions may cause non-emergency operations to be postponed, the union said last night.

In addition, until further notice all MDA ambulances are going out on call only if a medic accompanies the driver/medic on his or her rounds. This reduces by half the number of available ambulances.

The union, headed by Eli Ben-Khassous, says workers can no longer take responsibility for what happens to patients in ambulances untended by drivers on their way to hospital.

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

"there will be no peace process." He strongly criticized the opposition motion, noting that just a few weeks ago Labor had threatened to file a no-confidence motion because the government had not started work on Har Homa.

Netanyahu said Har Homa would be a test of the peace process. "We're not looking for confrontations, but stand firm on our right to build there and we don't need anyone's permission."

He said if Israel gave in on Har Homa and Jerusalem, there would be no end to the demands and pressures. "Who knows where it would end—not even with the 1987 borders."

He stressed that the Palestinian Authority would be held responsible for "any attempts at creating 'spontaneous' violence... Anyone who intends realizing the threats against us should take into account that we won't be a partner to it. We won't operate under threats or waves of violence. We definitely intend making progress in this process according to our beliefs and what the agreement allows us to do."

Meanwhile, opposition members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee strongly criticized Netanyahu for canceling his appearance before it yesterday to give his regular monthly report. The report was meant to deal with, among other things, Har Homa construction and relations with the Palestinians.

The Prime Minister's Office put out a statement saying the premier's schedule was too tight to fit in the meeting, although he later came to the Knesset to meet with coalition MKs.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called Netanyahu's behavior "scan-

ARAFAF

dalous. Netanyahu may be able to escape from the committee, but he can't run away from the personal responsibility for the Har Homa failure, which most of the public has strong reservations about... The Knesset should take precedence over the coalition," he said.

Hillel Kutler adds from Washington: The State Department yesterday called the renewed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, and King Hussein's Sunday visit, evidence of "a small step forward" in the peace process. At the same time, it reissued a call for the Palestinians to refrain from violence should construction on Har Homa proceed, saying that with a direct negotiating channel, there is "no justification" for armed clashes.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that in light of the weekend's events, including the PA's Gaza conference, the US has detected a "very small, perhaps even imperceptible to some people, change, which sometimes helps move a situation forward."

Burns also objected to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's weekend comments about Arafat facing exile from Gaza should violence occur.

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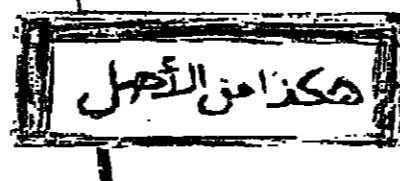
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RA'ANANA SPORTS HALL



Road projects infuriate Hebron Jewish community

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

The Jewish community in Hebron was outraged to discover last night that the road leading to Tel Rumeida will be closed by the Palestinian Authority, leaving residents and school buses the sole option of using the H1 road (under Palestinian control).

According to spokesman Noam Arnon, civil authority district liaison commander Col. Baruch Magar informed the community of plans to "rehabilitate" the road. Arnon said that the community is considering striking and a cable had been sent to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer stating that the community could not be

responsible for the safety of the schoolchildren.

"When we asked where the buses would park, we were told that it hadn't been taken into consideration," he said.

This, said Arnon, is in addition to work being carried out on Shuhada Street near the Avraham Avinu quarter. Arnon said that Jewish residents were upset yesterday morning to discover a sign erected at Gross Square describing the road work as part of a joint American and Palestinian project "for the benefit of the Palestinians." "This is outrageous, what about the Israelis?" he said.

According to civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner, the sign was not prepared in coordina-

tion with Israeli authorities, although the entire project repairing roads in the area, including the work being carried out on Shuhada Street, is a joint project that involves Israelis, Palestinians, and the US.

Work on the road leading to Tel Rumeida, said Lerner, started yesterday. "There are plans to lay sewage pipes, electric and Bezeq cables, as well as building sidewalks and repaving the road surface," he said.

Regarding the Jewish community's fears about safety on H1, Lerner said that everything had been fully coordinated with the PA, but he stressed that Israel is responsible for the community's security. But Palestinians were pleased

with the work. "This is a good step because we can have fresh water to drink and it will be a safer, cleaner place with better services for all of us - Jews and Arabs," said Monzer Shaheed, whose appliance repair shop is on Shuhada Street.

Also yesterday, about 300 Palestinians demonstrated in Hebron to press for the release of relatives held in Israeli jails.

The demonstrators marched from City Hall to the Red Cross offices, carrying Palestinian flags and signs that read: "No peace until prisoners are released," and "Close prisons for good."

Israel has freed thousands of Palestinian security prisoners as part of the peace agreements, but some 3,000 remain in custody.



Solar phones
Public phones that operate by solar power like these are being installed by Bezeq in various parts of the country. The phones were designed by Hagai Schwadron. They are meant especially for mass public events in areas with little or no phone infrastructure. (Israel Sim)

Peace Now: Settler population up 9.4%

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Claiming the government is burying any hopes for peace and using the momentum of the current Har Homa crisis, Peace Now presented its latest report regarding changes in settlements under the present government, at a press conference yesterday.

The report cited statistics and figures to uphold claims that during 1996 thousands of housing units had been approved for construction and sale in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. In addition, the report stated that there had been an increase in the population in these areas of 9.4% (approximately 13,000 settlers). According to figures released by the Interior Ministry, the number of births in the areas for 1996 was 4,661.

Mossy Raz, Peace Now spokesman and author of the report, said the renewal of settlement activity under the present government "had been done very quietly, behind the scenes."

Peace Now leader Tali Reshef described the findings as "disturbing and proof that the current government is not interested in seeking peaceful solutions, or taking into account the needs of the Palestinians." He added that by continuing in the same way, any hopes for cooperation between Israel and the

Palestinians in the future would be dashed. The movement charged that up until the end of 1996, 4,000 units in Kiryat Sefer, Emanuel, the Jordan Valley and Ma'aleh Adumim had been approved for construction and an additional 3,000 units that had been frozen under the previous government had been released for sale.

"This means an addition of approximately 15,000 settlers will move into these units," Raz said.

Both Reshef and Raz claimed that the approval of such a large number were the direct result of the government's decision to cancel a ministerial committee that presided over construction in the territories and transfer the powers to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's media coordinator, refused to relate to the figures mentioned in the report, but stressed that no new settlements had been established. Plans were approved, he said, according to the needs and natural development of the settlements, taking into account the governmental decisions and only after all legal aspects had been thoroughly examined. He dismissed the claim that there had been a population growth of 9.4%, saying the figures for the year were fairly similar to those that have been cited annually since 1993.

Dayan: IDF ready for Har Homa violence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan met with members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza on Sunday night to discuss the possible escalation of violence once work begins on Har Homa.

According to Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, the council's security committee meets with Dayan on a regular basis. He said Dayan assured the settlers the army is ready and emphasized there would be no repeat of the violence that erupted last September when the Western Wall Tunnel exit was opened.

Dayan stressed the need to beef up security in all settlements and that gate guards should examine those entering more thoroughly, said Leiter.

Jordanian opposition backs schoolgirls' killer

News agencies

Two radical Islamic groups yesterday praised last week's killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier and called on Muslims to wage a "holy war" to regain Jerusalem.

"The only path to regain the right [in Jerusalem] is the path of sacrifice, the path taken by the Jordanian soldier who emptied his machine gun into the breasts of the grandchildren of monkeys and pigs," they said.

Jordan's parliamentary opposition yesterday also came out in the soldier's favor, urging the government to stop "condemning and criminalizing" the soldier.

The Jihad Movement and Vanguard of Conquest, which both are believed to have small followings in Egypt, faxed the statement to The Associated Press. The Vanguard is presumed to be offshoots of the Jihad group that murdered Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, but little is known about the Jihad Movement. The fax indicated that the groups have decided to operate together.

"The Islamic and Arab reactions should match the love of Jerusalem which resides in the hearts," they said in the statement.

It called on Muslims "to go strongly and steadfastly toward jihad for God." There was no way to independently verify the authenticity of the statement, but it followed the pattern of previous statements from the groups.

The Jordanian opposition members said in a statement that no Islamic rulings could sanction the killing of children, but that it occurred against the backdrop of the "extreme provocation" of Israel's decision to build Jewish housing at Har Homa.

"The opposition calls on the government ... to stop its condemnation and criminalization ... and attacks on the rights of this Jordanian," the statement said.

"They should give him a chance to defend himself." King Hussein has expressed shame at what he described as a vile act, and Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti said the soldier would be "prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

"The statements from the government ... contravene the constitution and basis of law which



Jordanian police yesterday prevent political activists from making a solidarity visit to the family of Ahmed Daqamsa, the Jordanian soldier who murdered seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls.

state that the accused is innocent until proven guilty," the statement said.

More than 100 policemen, including anti-riot police brandishing shields and clubs, blocked parliament members and other political activists from making a solidarity visit to the soldier's family yesterday.

Najib Rashdan, who led the 100-person group, said the group had sought the intervention of local government officials with the police, but got no response from them and had decided to turn back. There were no reports of violence or arrests.

The activists oppose the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and sought to underscore their stance by lending support to the suspect in the shooting, Ahmed Daqamsa.

Officials said Daqamsa, who has been detained for questioning, faces a military trial. His family said he was mentally unstable.

Latest snow saves Hermon ski season

By DAVID RUDGE

The recent weather has salvaged the ski season for the Mt. Hermon site and averted what would otherwise have been a financial catastrophe for the owners.

More than 150,000 people have visited the site since snow started falling on the country's highest mountain at the beginning of last month. More snow was expected to fall on peaks in the Galilee and on the Golan Heights last night, before dying out today.

"There's enough snow on the mountain now for at least another two weeks of good skiing," said Eli Sagron, manager of the ski site. "The situation is far better

than at the beginning of the season, when we really feared that there would be no snow at all - and therefore no income."

The recent weather has also helped improve the state of the country's depleted water resources, especially the level of Lake Kinneret and reservoirs on the Golan and Upper Galilee. Mekorot officials said most of the reservoirs in the North are nearly full, although the Kinneret is still 70 cm. below what it was at this time last year.

Nevertheless, the officials noted that the level of water in the lake had risen 1.23 meters since its lowest point at the beginning of the winter.

Health funds, doctors launch vaccination campaign

By JUDY SIEGEL

The four health funds and the Israel Association of Family Physicians are launching a campaign to encourage the immunization of adults and teenagers against a variety of diseases, from tetanus-diphtheria to hepatitis A and B and pneumococcal pneumonia, depending on the person's age and condition.

Prof. Pesach Shvartzman, chairman of the physicians' association, said yesterday that the level of immunization among adults against pneumococcal pneumonia and tetanus, for example, is very low. Most people don't think of vaccines once they're out of the army.

Shvartzman urged the IDF to immunize all soldiers against hepatitis A (which is common in army camps, day care centers and kindergartens) and hepatitis B (which has been given to new-borns only since 1992).

These vaccines are not provided to babies by Tipat Halav family health centers, but now the health funds are willing to supply

them at reduced costs for their members, as they realize that preventing such diseases is cost effective.

An annual influenza shot is important for everyone in the high-risk category (those over 65 or who have a weakened immune system or a chronic illness), as is vaccination against the bacterial form of pneumonia. The tetanus-diphtheria vaccine is recommended for everyone once every 10 years.

The campaign will include printed material distributed by the health funds and billboards, but there is no money for TV and radio announcements, and the cash-starved Health Ministry has not offered any funds. In addition, the association has sent booklets with guidelines to all its 860 physician members to increase their awareness of the importance of vaccination.

The association also will try to persuade rabbis influential in the haredi community to promote awareness, as vaccination rates in this sector are among the lowest in Israel.

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1
high-risk age of 65. The HU effort, which included Reuven Levy, Dr. Evgenia Greenbaum, Miriam Schlesinger, Prof. Dan Engelhard, and Prof. Avraham Morag, was not a simple adaptation of flu vaccine. It was a complex procedure, using three current strains of killed flu virus that can be absorbed through the mucous membranes (instead of going directly into the blood stream) and nevertheless be effective.

ARAD

Continued from Page 1
"The first was completed last summer when the swap took place. The second involves Arad and our prisoners. We have told the German minister that Ron Arad is not with us,

but because he is the key to the freedom of our people we have been searching for clues [to his whereabouts]. He said that Hizballah has not held back any information regarding Arad. Lebanese observers said Nasrallah is probably aware of Arad's whereabouts, but unable to reach a deal with his captors.

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NEWS

in brief

Woman, 70, killed crossing street

A 70-year-old Ramat Gan woman died yesterday shortly after being hit by a car while crossing a street in Givatayim. Her husband, who also was hit, is in serious condition at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital.

Police defuse car bomb in Ra'anana

Police sappers yesterday defused a bomb planted in a car in Ra'anana. The car's owner, a local investment consultant, found the bomb in the morning when he got into the car and called police. Police are investigating the incident, which they believe was criminally motivated.

Matza set for Romania trip

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza is leaving for Romania today to look into solutions for the problems related to the adoption of babies from that country. During his two-day visit, he will be the guest of the Romanian health minister, who visited Israel a few months ago. The two also will discuss organ transplants, exchanges of medical delegations and therapeutic tourism.

Vietnamese delegation visits Knesset

A delegation from the Vietnamese National Assembly, led by member Fe Du Bin, met with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon in his office yesterday, in the first such tour by Vietnamese here. The delegation brought a warm message of greeting from the assembly's general secretary Do Mwoi. The delegation head said he hopes the visit would help strengthen the ties between the two parliaments and extended an invitation for Tichon to visit Vietnam.

23-year-old composer signs with Casa Ricordi

At 23, Gil Shohat is the youngest composer and the first Israeli ever to sign a contract with the Italian music publishers Casa Ricordi. Six of his works will be published, including the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, which had its successful premiere last year. Shohat, whose local teachers include 1997 Israel Prize winner Andre Hajdu, is currently working on his doctorate in piano and composition in Rome, where composer Luciano Berio is one of his teachers. Casa Ricordi, founded in 1808, numbers Verdi, Puccini, Milhaud, and Berio among its roster of clients.

Cameroon runs up debt with Dan Hotel chain

By HAIM SHAPIRO

They were the kind of tenants every landlord dreams about, diplomats, but with \$118,000 on the debit side of the ledger - owed by the Cameroon Embassy for over a year - the Dan Hotel chain is not so sure. According to Noah Grinwald, senior deputy general manager of the Dan Hotel chain, the Cameroon Embassy had occupied a suite at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv for a number of years. Then, in May 1994, the embassy stopped paying its bills. A year later, the embassy was still using the suite, and still paying no bills. Grinwald said, adding that even getting the room vacated had been a problem. "It wasn't so easy getting them out," he said, when asked why the hotel had allowed the embassy to remain in the suite and run up a bill of that magnitude. Eventually, the hotel went to Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, which ordered the embassy to turn over

the suite to the hotel and to pay the bill. The embassy did move, it even sent letters to the hotel saying that it intended to pay the debt, but it hasn't paid yet. Grinwald said that the hotel has appealed to the Foreign Ministry. It has even asked for the help of the Israeli ambassador in Cameroon. So far, no one has been able to help. "We would go to the Execution Office," Grinwald said, referring to the government department which, in response to a court order, confiscates property from those who waltz on their debts, "but they have nothing worth taking." Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said that in theory, an embassy can be sued for commercial debts, such as rental, although the ambassador holds full immunity and cannot be forced to appear in court. It was impossible to obtain a response from the Cameroon Embassy. Its telephone line had been disconnected.

Biran: Stop Dotan release

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The military parole board's decision to release Rami Dotan continued to draw fire yesterday. Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran has asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and IDF Judge-Advocate General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham to petition the High Court of Justice against his early release. The move was approved by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. In his letter to Rubinstein and Shoham, Biran wrote: "The defense establishment opposes the release of Dotan. In my judgment, the parole board failed to sufficiently consider all the public ramifications and placed too much weight on personal-humanitarian factors. Therefore, insufficient attention was paid to the negative consequences that ensue when a criminal of such high rank does not pay the full price of his crimes. The board should have considered the message it would be sending to the public. It is forbidden that a criminal like Dotan, who caused considerable damage to the State of Israel, its military, and to the faith placed in its military commanders, should not pay the full price."

Mordechai also sharply criticized the decision to release Dotan, who was demoted from brigadier-general to private. In an interview with Army Radio, he said: "I think the decision was a mistake. We have the ability to provide any medical care needed within the military prison system. [The board had cited Dotan's high blood pressure and the two minor strokes he suffered in prison in its decision.] "Dotan's crime was one of the most serious I know; it caused direct damage to the state. The State of Israel is still paying tens of millions of dollars as a result of this damage. The direct and indirect damage he

caused to our dealings with the American military is apparent to all of us, and certainly to me as defense minister." President Ezer Weizman also released a statement blasting the decision. Through his legal adviser, he asked Rubinstein to examine the parole board's decision in detail. Michael Paron, of the Movement for Quality Government, said his organization has been asked by the Attorney-General's Office to join in the petition to the High Court. He said the movement has been following the case closely and had received much support in light of the public outcry against Dotan's impending release.

Wiesenthal Center calls for halt of SS pensions

BAL HARBOUR, Florida (AP) - The German government should stop paying pensions to former SS officers, release a list of those getting payments, and determine whether it includes known war criminals, the founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center says.

Rabbi Marvin Hier said Sunday that he notified the German foreign minister that recent revelations in a war crimes case in Rome have raised questions about German policy toward former war criminals. Hier said he hasn't received a response from the German government. Hier said investigators determined that former SS Maj. Karl Hass, 84, has been receiving his German pension for years, despite his alleged involvement in the wartime slayings of 335 Italian civilians. They were killed in a cave outside Rome in retaliation for the killing of 33 German soldiers in a bombing by resistance fighters. Hass was a witness in the trial of former SS Capt. Erich Priebke, 83, who was acquitted of the most serious charges against him but ordered held for a retrial when a higher Italian court found the judge was biased. Now the German government is seeking extradition of both to face charges.

Hier said the Hass case underlines how little is known about German policy toward former SS officers and also the "complete bureaucratic bungling" of the Germans. He questioned how one branch of the German government could be looking for Nazi war criminals like Hass for years while another was mailing them pension checks. Hier said he wants to find out whether Priebke and Joseph Schwamberger, both accused of war crimes, are also getting pensions. Germany's last major Nazi war crimes trial ended in May 1992 with the conviction of Schwamberger, then 80, on charges of murdering more than 600 people as the commander of two concentration camps in eastern Poland. More than 3,000 former SS officers now living in the United States are getting pensions, as are more than 2,000 in Canada, and another 1,100 in Great Britain, Hier said. He said many more than that are living elsewhere in the world.

A scandal that won't go away

By URBEL HEILMAN

The Rami Dotan affair came to light in 1989, when Ofir Pa'il, then a buyer in a Defense Ministry procurement delegation, alleged in a letter to his superiors that Dotan, then a brigadier-general and the IAF's chief procurement officer, was engaged in bribery and embezzlement. At the time, the IAF was considering the purchase of \$300 million worth of F-16 engines from General Electric. Dotan was suspected of taking a bribe from GE.

During the initial investigation, in which no criminal activity was revealed, Dotan received the full support of the IAF. However, Maj.-Gen. (res.) David Ivry, then director-general of the Defense Ministry, suspected a cover-up and issued a call for a new investigation, which was subsequently taken up by the Military Police. Even during this second investigation, powerful friends, such as then OC Air Force Avihu Bin-Nun, maintained that Dotan was innocent. However, the evidence mounted against

him, and after his former attorney Harold Katz, who aided in embezzling the funds, agreed to become a state witness, Dotan was forced to accept a plea bargain in which he confessed to embezzling \$12 million and ordering many of those under his command to abet him in his illegal activity. Many of the officers involved were dismissed from the military. Dotan was sentenced to 13 years in prison and five years suspended, and was demoted to private. Thus far, Dotan has served half of his sentence and is slated for early release on April 21, due to poor health.



Special bar mitzva

A boy suffering from cerebral palsy reads from the Torah at his girl who all suffer from cerebral palsy and mild mental retardation national program, Bar/Bat Mitzva for the Special Child, organizes. Green, director of the program, said that the children, none of whom are Jewish, wrote their own blessings, describing things for which they are grateful.

Illinois man accused of helping Nazis

CHICAGO (AP) - Bronislaw Hajda says the Nazis forced him to work as a cook in a German concentration camp during World War II. But prosecutors say Hajda was a guard who helped kill hundreds of Jews. Hajda's trial, which began yesterday, marks

the fourth time since 1988 that the Justice Department has accused a Chicago-area resident of Nazi-related atrocities of more than 50 years ago. A son of a shoemaker in Poland, Hajda says the Germans arrested him when he was 18,

imprisoned him for 3 1/2 years and forced to work as a cook in a prison camp. But the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations says Hajda, 73, helped massacre hundreds of Jewish prisoners at Treblinka.

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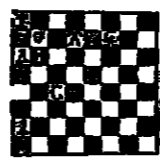
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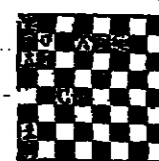
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Tour guide: Danny Weiss

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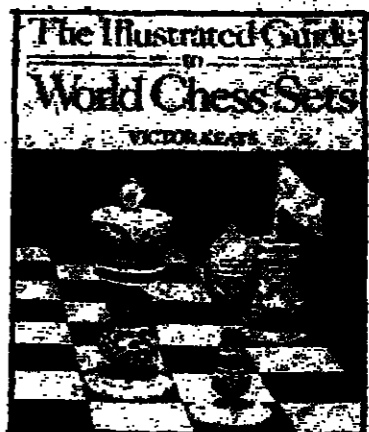


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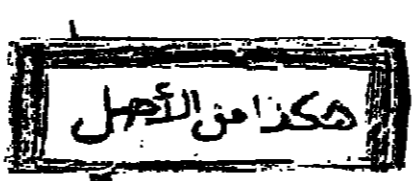
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British general elections May 1

By ALAN WHEATLEY

LONDON (Reuters) - Prime Minister John Major yesterday ended months of uncertainty by confirming that Britain's elections will take place on May 1.

Polls give the ruling Conservative Party little chance of winning what would be a record fifth consecutive term in office, but Major was in a confident mood when he announced the date of the election on the steps of his Downing Street residence.

"I believe this election is winnable. Not only do I think it's winnable, I think I'm going to win this election... We have an 18-year record record that I am proud of," Major said.

Major spoke to reporters after returning from Buckingham Palace, where he asked Queen Elizabeth for formal permission to dissolve parliament and hold the election.

"Elections, some people say, are tough and gruelling businesses, but I think they're also a lot of fun, and

I'm looking forward to going up and down the country taking the message that I believe is right for this country to everyone," Major said.

The Conservatives have transformed the face of Britain since they took power in 1979, privatizing vast swathes of industry and reducing the power of trade unions as they succeeded in halting decades of economic decline.

But their opponents argue that Britain has become a more unequal, harsher society as a result of Conservative policies and that after 18 years it is time for a change. They accuse the government of being weak, out of touch and lacking ideas.

Labour, which under Tony Blair has ditched its socialist baggage and anchored itself in the political mainstream, leads the Conservatives by about 25 percentage points according to recent opinion polls.

"We are on the verge of a new millennium... and there is so much that Britain could do," Blair said.

"There is so much talent, resources and energy among its people and I want a new government to come in with different values, different priorities and really lead that national renewal."

"That is at the heart of everything we want to achieve."

No party in power has ever clawed back such a big poll deficit so close to a general election. Labour needs a 4.3 percent swing to win power for the first time since 1979. This is larger than any swing Labour has achieved since 1945 and Blair vowed yesterday to be "the eternal warrior against complacency."

The announcement of the election fired the starting gun on what will be a 44-day campaign, the longest in 80 years.

Parliament will not be dissolved until early April when the campaign proper, with the publication of manifestos, daily news conferences and national tours by the leaders of the main parties, will start.

But, wasting no time, Major was planning his first meet-the-people visit later yesterday to Luton, a marginal constituency north of London.

Conservative strategists are sure that Labour, which has carefully tailored its message to appeal to the middle classes, will crack under the scrutiny of a long campaign.

But Blair is equally confident of

the appeal of his "new" Labour Party and said the contrast with the ruling party could not be clearer.

"It will be between a Conservative Party that is an utterly disorganized shambles, that has provided, very incompetent government, but has been weakly led, and a Labour Party that is genuinely New Labour," he said.

Countdown to polls

The following is a timetable of events in the run-up to election day.

MARCH 17 - Announcement of election day.

MARCH 20 - Last clash in House of Commons between Major and opposition Labor leader Tony Blair.

MARCH 21 - Parliament begins Easter recess.

APRIL 4 - Major holds campaign rally in London, first of a planned series of seven.

APRIL 8 - Dissolution of parliament and proclamation of election.

APRIL 16 - Last day for nominations.

MAY 1 - Election day.

MAY 7 - New parliament assembles to elect Speaker and swear in new members.

MAY 14 - Opening of parliament with Queen's speech setting out new government's legislative program. (Reuters)

WORLD

in brief

46 killed in bus crash

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) - A passenger bus drove off a bridge on a mountain road in western Azerbaijan yesterday and plunged into a river, killing at least 46 people, including 12 children, a news report said. The ITAR-Tass news agency said the bus crashed into the Tovuz-Chai River after leaving the bridge and falling 15 meters near the mountain town of Tovuz.

Japanese suspects in Lebanon prefer suicide

BEIRUT (AP) - The five Japanese Red Army guerrillas jailed in Lebanon would commit suicide rather than be extradited to Japan, one member said. One of the suspects, Kozo Okamoto, 49, served 12 years in an Israeli jail for a 1972 attack at Lod Airport in which 24 people died.

'Der Spiegel' gives identity of Bonn CIA chief

BONN, Germany (AP) - A German news magazine, Der Spiegel, yesterday identified a man who it said is the CIA station chief in Bonn and of one of his supposed agents.

Yeltsin names young reformer to senior post

MOSCOW (AP) - Looking for fresh faces to revive his government, President Boris Yeltsin selected a young, reform-minded spot yesterday and put him in charge of several key economic sectors.

Boris Nemtsov, 37, was named first deputy prime minister and will handle social welfare policy and the restructuring of government monopolies such as natural gas and electricity, Yeltsin said in an interview with several television networks.

With Russia suffering from a host of economic and social problems, Yeltsin ordered a sweeping government shakeup last week. But so far, he has named only two people to new posts - Nemtsov, and Anatoly Chubais, 41, who will also hold the title of first deputy prime minister.

Both are committed to free market reforms, and Yeltsin hopes the pair will provide the new government with clear direction on economic policy. The outgoing administration was plagued by infighting that stalled reforms and contributed to Russia's economic stagnation.

The two first deputy prime ministers - Chubais and Nemtsov



Boris Nemtsov (Reuters)

Nemtsov, meanwhile, has won praise as a dynamic governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region near Moscow, turning the territory into a laboratory for economic reforms.

The area has been used for a variety of pilot projects with the World Bank and other international institutions on privatization and enterprise reforms.

Yeltsin told Nemtsov that "you have experience and authority, you're fresh, you're not from Moscow, not one from the worn-out deck."

Until yesterday, Yeltsin had insisted that the Cabinet would have only one first deputy prime minister - Chubais. But after a week of intense negotiations, it appeared there would be two first deputies to Chernomyrdin.

Yeltsin, who appears to be near full strength after months of illness, couldn't help but comment on Clinton's knee surgery, which pushed back the summit for a day.

"They were talking about the ill Yeltsin and the healthy Clinton at the summit, but it's turned out the other way round," he said. "The healthy Yeltsin and ill Clinton are coming."



Madelaine Germon, widow of Felix Germon, whose body was defiled by neo-Nazis, arrives at the Marseille court house for the trial of four neo-Nazis accused of desecrating a Jewish cemetery. (Reuters)

French neo-Nazis on trial for desecration of Jewish graves

MARSEILLE (Reuters) - Two French neo-Nazis accused of desecrating a Jewish cemetery in the southern town of Carpentras in 1990 expressed remorse in court when their trial opened yesterday, saying they had abandoned fascist views.

Yannick Garnier, 27, Bertrand Nouveau, 28, and two other skinheads are accused of the antisemitic rampage, in which the body of a Jewish man was disinterred and 34 graves wrecked in a crime that shocked the nation.

"Morally, I never accepted the Carpentras desecration. I had committed an act that contradicted what I had always thought about life

and myself," said Garnier, who confessed last August to being part of a five-member group that carried out the attack.

"I have become hostile to all the ideas I had six years ago and which were close to those of the [extreme-right] National Front," he said in his two-hour testimony.

The attack in May 1990, in which the recently-buried body of Felix Germon was unearthed, and his sodomitization simulated with a beach umbrella, prompted hundreds of thousands of people to march through Paris led by late president Francois Mitterrand.

It also drew widespread condemnation of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen,

who was accused of inciting such actions.

Garnier's confession led to the arrest of his three suspected accomplices. At the time of their arrests, investigators said all four were either members or sympathizers of the tiny Nationalist French and European Party (NFE), which became known in the late 1980s in connection with a series of attacks on Arab immigrants.

Garnier, Nouveau and the two others, Patrick Laonegro, 31, and Olivier Fimby, 28, face two years in prison if found guilty. A fifth member, whom the four others say instigated the desecration, has since died in a motorcycle accident.

EU team heads to Albania State of emergency remains in effect

TIRANA (Reuters) - The main challenger to Albanian President Sali Berisha, Socialist Fatos Nano, urged him yesterday to stop interfering in the work of the government and devote his energy to restoring order after weeks of unrest.

Berisha, under increasing pressure from abroad to step down, was awaiting the arrival of a high-level European Union mission being sent to help to consolidate the calm of recent days, possibly by helping the Albanian police.

Rebels holding southern towns say they will not give up their weapons until Berisha goes and Nano, freed from prison last week in one of several concessions by Berisha, said he should to step down, but this was not his first priority.

Nano told a news conference at his Socialist Party headquarters that his message to the president was that he should "cooperate, not interfere." Nano, briefly prime minister in 1991 and jailed in 1993 on corruption charges which he says were politically

inspired, is being mentioned as a possible successor to Berisha.

Nano has thrown his support behind the all-party government of Prime Minister Bashkim Fino, a fellow Socialist appointed last week to head a government of national reconciliation.

Shops in Tirana were open after five days of turmoil last week, transport was running and public employees obeyed a government order to return to work. But a state of emergency remains in effect in Albania, with schools closed and a 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew.

At least 100 people have died in more than a month of unrest sparked by the collapse of popular investment funds and mushrooming into a lawless anti-government revolt with widespread looting of arms from army depots.

State television showed Kalashnikov rifles, a shoulder-launched anti-missile and dozens of cases of ammunition being handed in at a Tirana police station.

Severed penis sent away on balloon

BANGKOK (Reuters) - A jealous Thai wife cut off her husband's penis, tied it to a helium-filled balloon, and let it fly away, police yesterday quoted the victim as saying.

A bleeding rickshaw rider, Prayoon Eklang, 47, in the northeastern town of Nakhon Ratchasima was rushed to the hospital early Sunday after he woke up to discover his angry wife's handiwork.

"I woke up and ran looking for it, but a neighbor said my wife had already tied it to a balloon and let it fly away," he told police from his hospital bed.

Peru hostage crisis reaches three-month mark

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Latin America's longest hostage crisis ended its third month yesterday, with 72 hostages still trapped inside the Japanese ambassador's home and no new talks scheduled to end the stand-off.

Leftist rebels stormed a cocktail party at the residence on December 17, seizing more than 500 hostages and demanding that Peru release hundreds of their jailed comrades.

The Tupac Amaru rebels quickly released most of the hostages, but still hold 72 men. The ambassadors from Japan and Bolivia are among the captives.

Relatives of the captives asked Lima residents to join them in a show of solidarity for the hostages yesterday. Supporters were asked to ring bells and sound sirens and horns at noon.

Talks to peacefully end the crisis for the most part have been stalled since March 7, when rebels broke off negotiations because the government allegedly was digging a tunnel under the residence in preparation for an armed assault.

The two sides met last Wednesday, but failed to reach an agreement on certain issues.

Mediators have held separate meetings with the government and rebels in an attempt to persuade both sides to return to the negotiating table. No date has been set for the resumption of talks.

The main stumbling block appears to be the rebels' call for the release of jailed insurgents, a demand the government rejects.

Other issues reportedly include better jail conditions for prisoners and whether the rebels would have to leave Peru or could remain in the country once the hostages are freed.

The government reportedly has suggested the rebels be exiled to Cuba or the Dominican Republic in exchange for the captives' freedom. Although the rebels have shown no signs of accepting exile, Japan apparently wants to keep that option open.

Zaire urges calm

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Zaire's government urged the capital not to panic yesterday in the face of relentless rebel advances, but travel agents reported a rush of flight bookings by Zaireans trying to flee the spreading civil war.

A statement, issued after an emergency cabinet meeting, said that the battle for Zaire's strategic third city of Kisangani had sparked the rumors, adding that the city had fallen to well-armed Ugandan troops.

One minister said that President Mobutu Sese Seko had telephoned twice during the cabinet meeting from his hospital bed in Europe, where he has spent most of his time since prostate cancer surgery in Switzerland in August.

"The situation created following the battle for Kisangani has given rise over the past 48 hours to all sorts of speculation, particularly in Kinshasa where fanciful rumors have circulated both about the president's state of health and the security of people and property in the capital," it said.

"The government invites the people not to panic as this is both unjustified and fed by pure rumor."

Travel agents, however, reported a post-weekend rush to book seats on flights out of the country. Planes to Europe and South Africa, where Zaireans need no visa, were the most popular.

In Kinshasa's central market, traders prepared to transfer their goods to safe houses, anticipating the mayhem that has regularly occurred after rebels have defeated the army.

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Spain, one of the most important centers of Jewish life in the Middle Ages, holds many secrets and treasures for those who explore her beautiful mountains and valleys. Now you can trace the roots of Jewish life in Spain on this once in a lifetime tour. Visit important Jewish and Kabala centers, explore ancient Jewish quarters and synagogues, and learn about the history and works of famous Jewish figures. Explore the palaces of Spanish kings, stroll the magnificent "Herreriate Gardens," and travel the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Glimpse the special worlds of Salvador Dalí and El Greco, and see the many windmills Don Quixote bravely battled.

RESERVATIONS STILL BEING TAKEN FOR APRIL 2

DATES: DEPARTURE: April 2, 1997 RETURN: April 16, 1997 PRICE: US \$2090 per person (in double occupancy room)

Includes: All flights, first class hotels, half board (except in Madrid and Barcelona - breakfast only). All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in program. Experienced tour guide - Alik Shahaf.

Please note: Fish and vegetarian meals available. No travel on Shabbat.

For reservations and further information, contact The Jerusalem Post Travel Club. Tel: 02-6221679, Fax: 02-6236161 Sun-Thur 9am-5pm, Fri 9am - 12.30pm - ask for Tova or Nicole.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their share prices.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares increase after five days of declines

Mishtanim 247.80 ▲ 1.73%

Maof 254.66 ▲ 1.74%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes rose after five days

Key Representative Rates

US DollarNIS 3.3660 - 0.21%

MarkNIS 1.9970 + 0.84%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

DJ Industrials2855.49 -0.87%

DJ 302848.02 -0.92%

NYSE STOCKS

DeclinesUnchanged

ADVANCE

NYSE STOCKS

US COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITIES

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

LONDON METAL FIXES

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Foreign financial data courtesy of

Commstock Trading Ltd.

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific

Mediterranean Investments, Ltd.

Tel. 08-958-5873. All other data supplied by

Commstock Trading Ltd., Tel. 02-624-4963.

PARIS

FRANKFURT

INVESTMENTS

POLICE 100

of declines, amid easing concern that political tensions would turn to violence.

Gaining stocks included Koor Industries Ltd., which produces some seven percent of Israel's industrial output.

Koor's success is linked to the success of the peace process, said Dan Alt, a broker at Tel Aviv firm Nesuah Trading. Koor rose 1.75 percent.

"Foreign investors in particular like Koor," said Alt. "If we see an improvement in the peace process, we'll see them buying." King Hussein's visit "relaxed the atmosphere," he said.

Of 962 shares trading across the exchange, more than five rose for every one falling, NIS 84.5 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 13.2m. above Sunday's level.

Gaining stocks included coffee and chocolate manufacturer Elite Industries Ltd. Issue 5, which rose 1.5% and Issue 1, which rose 5%.

Elite's main shareholders, chairman David Feldman and Mickey Strauss, the head of privately held Nabariya Strauss Dairy, have said they are vying for control over the company. (Bloomberg)

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Euro bourses lower

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses closed sharply lower yesterday, dragged down as Wall Street fell on jitters about higher interest rates.

On currency markets, the dollar regained a little poise after losing a penny in advance of German figures this week, which could signal returning strength to the German economy - good news for

the mark against the dollar. European stocks, in the minus column for most of the day, dipped further as the Dow Jones industrials average lost nearly one percent, rattled by interest rate fears and investment guru Warren Buffett's comment that stocks are overvalued.

In London, stocks closed with losses of 1.15 percent.

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow up 20 in mixed session

NEW YORK (AP) - Blue-chip issues turned higher, but technology and smaller-company shares slid yesterday as interest rates crept toward 7 percent in the bond market amid worries the Federal Reserve will hike its

lending rates to contain inflation. The Dow Jones industrial average recovered from an 81-point deficit to gain about 20 points.

Broader measures also rebounded from the day's lows, but there were still sizable losses in the Nasdaq market and other sectors dominated by technology and smaller-company shares.

The Dow's decline was highlighted by an inauspicious start for the blue-chip barometer's four new components: Hewlett-Packard; Johnson and Johnson; Travelers Group; and Wal-Mart Stores. Those four companies replaced Bethlehem Steel, Texaco, Westinghouse Electric and Woolworth in the Dow.

WHERE TO GO

Notice in this feature are charged at NIS 28.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM Conducted Tours HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun-Thur. 11 a.m. from

Bronim Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg, Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 58282819. HADASSAH, Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-6418333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, (Tel. 04-8374253.)

MUSSEUMS TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andres Serrano: The Mop. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflowers. Portraits. By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israel art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shimon Ben-David and Amnon Ben-David, The Inverted Canvas. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, (Tel. 04-8374253.)

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Jerusalem: Armona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 673-1901; Balsam, Salah-E-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Benny, 174 Dizengoff, 522-2386; Superpharm Gimel, 1 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimel, 641-7117. Tel. 3 a.m. Wednesday: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 DN Givoli, 546-2040. Tel. midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Minimstore Superpharm, 4 Shanl Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Clal Pharm, 114 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 741-0211. Netanya: Tzel Arazin, 24 Weizmann, 834-1732. Haifa: Kiryat Eliezer, 6 Mayerhoff Sq., 851-1707. Krayot area: Niv Atta, 18 Hankin, Kiryat Ata, 844-1626. Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merzliya, 6 Maskit (cm. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pithah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. DUTY HOSPITALS Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics, ENT); Shaare Zedek (surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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NEW YORK

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SPORTS

SPORTS

in brief

Sri Lanka sink to 2-0 loss vs New Zealand

HAMILTON, New Zealand (Reuter) - Precisely a year after their dazzling victory in cricket's World Cup, Sri Lanka yesterday sank to a 2-0 Test series loss to New Zealand, ranked bottom of the table of Test-playing nations.

Welsh look to Wembley as temporary home

CARDIFF (AP) - London's Wembley Stadium could be the temporary home for Welsh international rugby union while Cardiff Arms Park is being rebuilt.

Gascoigne gets suspended sentence in Italy

ROME (Reuter) - An Italian judge gave England midfielder Paul Gascoigne a three-month suspended jail sentence on Monday for punching a photographer in Rome while he was playing for Lazio in 1994.

M. Waugh ton inspires Aussie win

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuter) - Australia, inspired by a superb 116 from Mark Waugh, pulled off a two-wicket win in the second Test against South Africa after at tense climax on the fourth day yesterday.



MAJESTIC FORM - Mark Waugh dispatches another South African delivery to the boundary on his way to his 116 yesterday.

The victory gave Australia a 2-0 winning lead in the three-Test series and completed a remarkable transformation after South Africa had at one stage led by 188 overall with all their second innings wickets standing.

Needing 270 to win, Australia resumed on 145 for three and seemed to be coasting to success at 258 for five until three wickets suddenly tumbled in successive overs.

Occasional seamer Jacques Kallis bowled Waugh in the 91st over after he had batted for five and a half hours and 228 balls, hitting 17 fours and a six.

Hansie Cronje had Michael Bevan (24) caught at slip in the 92nd over and Kallis trapped Shane Warne (3) lbw in the 93rd.

Having needed just 12 more runs to win with five wickets in hand, Australia suddenly needed five runs with only two wickets left.

three figures reflected the increasing tension of the match situation and vagaries of bounce in the pitch. His second 50 took 112 deliveries and contained seven boundaries, his only escape coming on 105 when Daryll Cullinan dropped a slip catch off fast bowler Allan Donald.

But Waugh continued with a perfect mixture of attack and defence to ensure Australia a series win over the only country they have not beaten in a rubber in the last five years. Having been bowled out for 108 in their first innings to concede a deficit of 101, Australia not only made the highest total of the match in the fourth innings but comfortably the highest fourth innings total to win at St. George's Park.

Table with cricket statistics including batting averages and bowling figures for players like M. Waugh, S. Waugh, and D. Cullinan.

Big clubs hoping for success in State Cup

By DEREK FATTAL

Twelve clubs will be battling for a place in the quarter finals of the State Cup this afternoon. The country's premier knockout competition has taken on added significance this year.

dearly like to match Maccabi Tel Aviv's double-winning exploits - look set to dole out more punishment in their tie against Maccabi Herzliya.

The game between Hapoel Beit She'an and Hapoel Jerusalem will create a sense of déjà-vu for the two sides that drew 1-1 in league play on Saturday. This time, Beit She'an will act as hosts.

'Becker leaves Germany for US'

MUNICH (Reuter) - The German media reported that Boris Becker was leaving Germany for good yesterday, flying to the US to move into a luxury home there.

absent, an angry Becker wailed he could leave sooner. The mass-circulation daily Bild, one of several media to carry the story, headed its front-page report "Boris's bitter farewell."

Avalanche beat Red Wings, clinch division again

DENVER (Reuter) - It was such a big game, the league warned the nice hockey players not to fight. Adam Deadmarsh scored on the power play and shortbanded as the Stanley Cup champion Colorado Avalanche clinched their second straight Pacific Division title with a 4-2 win over the Detroit Red Wings Sunday in a penalty-filled game.

Pac-10 continues strong showing

NEW YORK (AP) - With two rounds complete in the NCAA college basketball tournament, the Pac-10 Conference and the selection committee are nearly perfect. Four of the tournament's final 16 teams are from the Pac-10, with one in each of the tournament's regions.

by the top seeds Sunday, ripping Temple 76-57 in the Midwest Regional and joining North Carolina, Kansas and Kentucky in the next round.

Maccabi crushes Hapoel in TA hoops derby

and Michael Doleac scored 18 as Utah's quick big men wore down North Carolina Charlotte. Stanford 72, Wake Forest 66. Knight got the best of Tim Duncan, and Stanford ended the Wake Forest All-American's quest for a national championship.

Table with basketball league standings showing teams like Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel Jerusalem, and their respective wins, losses, and points.

Table with National Hockey League Eastern Conference standings for Atlantic and Northeast Divisions.

Table with Western Conference standings for Central and Pacific Divisions.

LOCAL SCENE

Skater Shmerkin qualifies for world finals

By HEATHER CHAIT

Skating: Misha Shmerkin is through to the main competition of the world figure skating championships being held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

time will be held at the Dan Pearl Hotel. Registration is in full swing. Call (02) 6788320.

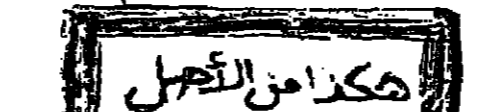
Thirty nations competed in the prestigious event. Orienteeing: The wintry weather did not dampen the spirits of hundreds of orientees in the two-day national championships over the weekend.

CLASSIFIEDS section containing various real estate listings under categories like DWELLINGS, RENTALS, SALES, SITUATIONS VACANT, etc.

Tel Aviv to host 470-class yachting world championships

The 1997 World Open Championships for 470-class yachts will be held off the Tel Aviv coast at the end of August, it was announced in Tel Aviv yesterday.

The last was the Mistral-class board-sailing championships staged in Haifa last summer. The Olympic, two-man 470-class yacht is a high-performance dinghy that even novices can sail.



CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER
HELEN KAYE

You will laugh until you cry, and in the next minute be touched to tears. The Cameri Theater production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night directed by Mick Gurevitch has its finger firmly on the pulse of what "Israel" is about at the end of the '90s, and yet is set within the context of Shakespeare's timeless and compassionate humanity. What's more, the choice of this marvelous cast. Tonight on the mainstage at 8:30 (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

Princess Yvonne (Gili Ben-Zulilo) never answers back, not to the jokes, not to the slurs, not to the slights. She bides her time. The Princess Yvonne is an adult fairy tale through which Polish playwright Witold Gombrowicz pounces on human foibles and frailties and plays with the power of silence. Ofira Henig, who has already given us the superb Anna Galicia this season, directs the Jerusalem Khan production which opens tonight at the theater at 8:30. (Hebrew)

TELEVISION
ELANA CHIPMAN

Suddenly Susan is a new, highly successful sitcom from the US, starring Brooke Shields. Susan is a bright, beautiful young woman, who for the first time in her life is on her own. She was always cared for by parents, boyfriends and her millionaire fiancé, until she decides to walk out of church and strike out on her own. She gets a job at a glamorous San Francisco fashion magazine and becomes independent. Family Channel, 9:40 p.m.

Also starting tonight is a new series from the makers of Millennium and The X-Files, Space, Above and Beyond, on Star Plus, at 6:30 and repeated on Thursdays at 9:30 p.m. This time it's science fiction. The time is 2063 and Earth is being threatened by an alien invasion. The people of Earth have already colonized nearby planets and that is where they encounter alien civilizations. The heroes are a group of fighter pilots dedicated to protecting the race (does this sound like



Suddenly Brooke Shields: The American star's sitcom starts tonight on Star Plus.

Independence Day or not?). The show will use special editing and computer graphic effects never previously seen on TV.

CLASSICAL MUSIC
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

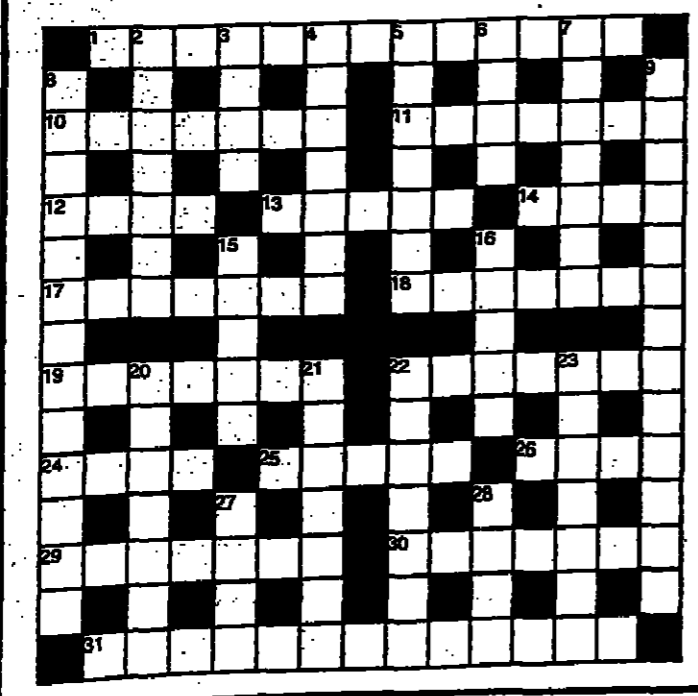
Pianist Sasha Toperich presents quite a rare recital tonight in Jerusalem, playing piano selections by Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann at the YMCA Hall, a benefit for the Holy City Lodge of Jerusalem of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (8).

Music director David Shallon replaces the sick Swiss maestro Peter Maag on the podium of his Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA in a concert focusing on Mozart and Schubert. The orchestra plays the ballet music Schubert wrote for the play Rosamunde and Mozart's 38th ("Prague") symphony, while young violinist Jonathan Gandelman joins to play Mozart's First Violin Concerto and Schubert's Rondo for Violin and Orchestra. Tomorrow and Thursday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (8).

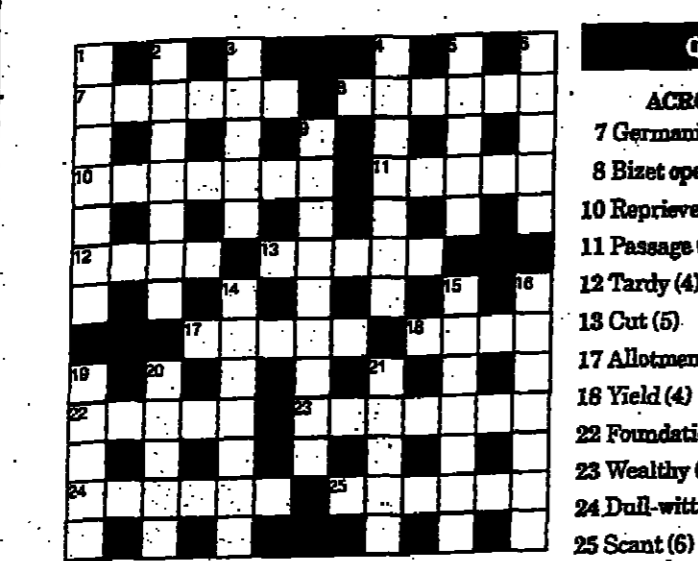


CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Go over the limits? (4,3,6)
10 Discloses one in France lives wildly (7)
11 In France the one indisputable freedom (7)
12 A student in the old US university (4)
13 Inclined to speak fast (5)
14 Trees in Wilhelmstrasse (4)
17 Rowing-boats as well as double-sculls have these strokes (7)
18 One who helps another to a seat (7)
19 Loud American with a pimple worries too much (4-3)
22 Evened the score by bribery? (7)
24 Employed American boy (4)
25 Bottled spirit (5)
26 Balls some fielder hasn't caught (4)
29 Caricature in strip (4,3)
30 She killed herself out of shattered hope and returning trouble (7)
31 Religious split? (6,2,5)
DOWN
2 Wrap up for novel PE exercises (7)
3 A small number to embrace religious instruction (4)
4 The loss-making accommodation for students (7)
5 Graduate to cut amount left in bank account (7)
6 One can turn up (4)
7 Missing about the foreign garment (7)
8 Ruth upset after ruining the joyful holiday abroad (4,3,6)
9 Stately stride—appropriate to a ruler? (8,5)
15 Shape altered a lot (5)
16 Object to being not quite sober (5)
20 He has something to say on the radio (7)
21 Day of sport—night of comedy (7)
22 Additional benefit a sort of bowler on cricket side may give? (4-3)
23 Not a main course (7)
27 It's produced by carbon monoxide to a degree (4)
28 How odd a call to stop (4)



SOLUTIONS
ACROSS
1 Telly, 4 Graph, 10 Locales, 11 Bijou, 12 Knall, 13 Atempt, 15 Eddy, 17 Adage, 19 Fiasco, 22 Flaw, 23 Ricketty, 27 Curve, 28 Debag, 29 Erasing, 31 Flare, 32 Adder.
DOWN
2 Emscoe, 3 Long-leg, 5 Rebut, 6 Puzomes, 7 Balle, 8 Seren, 9 Jants, 14 Type, 16 Doff, 18 Dashed, 20 Arkward, 21 Prude, 23 Lyres, 24 Lodge, 28 Eager, 28 Alive.



QUICK CROSSWORD
ACROSS
7 Germanic (6)
8 Bizet opera (6)
10 Reprieve (7)
11 Passage (5)
12 Tardy (4)
13 Cut (5)
17 Allotment (5)
18 Yield (4)
22 Foundation (5)
23 Wealthy (7)
24 Dull-witted (6)
25 Scant (6)
DOWN
1 Surprise (7)
2 Throb (7)
3 Droll (5)
4 Corpse (7)
5 Accumulate (5)
6 Bury (5)
9 Abandonment (9)
14 Chase (7)
15 Merriment (7)
16 Climate (7)
19 Chasm (5)
20 Edition (5)
21 Prompt (5)

WHAT'S ON

Table listing TV and movie programs for various channels including Channel 1, Jordan TV, Educational TV, Middle East TV, and Movie Channel. Includes program titles, times, and descriptions.

PRIME TIME TV

Table listing prime time TV programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing TV 101 programs for channels 101, 102, and 103. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing second showing programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing Star Plus programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing BBC World programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing CNN International programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing Super Channel programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

Table listing Eurosport programs for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. Includes program titles and times.

MOVIES

Jerusalem Cinematheque: The Truth About Cats and Dogs 5, 9:20 * The Darkening 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 * Lost In Translation 7:30, 9:30 * The Sandlot 7:30, 9:30 * The Hot Chick 7:30, 9:30 * The Hot Chick 7:30, 9:30 * The Hot Chick 7:30, 9:30...

RADIO

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 John Bloor 9:25 Andon: Hayden: String quartet op 64/1 (Solomon CD); Beethoven: Piano Concerto no 4; Schumann: Symphony no 2; Britten: My Beloved is Mine for tenor and piano; Debussy: Rhapsody no 12; Light Classical - works by Rimsky-Korsakov; 12:00 Artist of the Week - Janet Baker; Elgar: Sea Pictures; Berlioz: Nuits de fête; 14:06 Folk music - the clarinet in popular music; 15:00 From the Recording Studio - Alberto Buitrago (Chopin); Scherzo no 2 op 31; Havas: Gaspard de la nuit; Liszt: Patrasca; Sonata no 104; Shostakovitch: Tel Aviv - New York; 22:45 Live Huesoresque and Taramitis; Scriabin: Etude op 8/12; 16:00 My Concert - with Yoram Kanik; 18:00 New CDs - Francesco Carrara and Carzonia for organ; Salvatore: Fioravante no 4 for organ; Telemann: Concerto in E minor for recorder, flute, strings and basso continuo; Bach: Cantata no 201; Schubert: Symphony no 2; 20:05 From the World's Concert Halls - Prague Philharmonic Chamber Orch.; Prague Chamber Choir; Prague Children's Choir; Concerto in E minor for recorder, flute, strings and basso continuo; Bach: Cantata no 201; Schubert: Symphony no 2; 22:00 A Musical Journey

NEWS

in brief

Palestinian hits IDF jeep, 4 soldiers injured

A Palestinian driving a taxi ran a stop sign at the Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip yesterday and slammed into an IDF jeep, injuring four soldiers. The army launched an investigation to determine whether it was an innocent traffic accident or an attack. Two of the soldiers were moderately injured and two suffered light injuries, the army said. The taxi driver was lightly injured. The accident occurred at the site of grave clashes during last September's riots, in which two soldiers were killed at the junction. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Border policemen stoned near Hebron

Palestinians threw stones at a group of soldiers and border policemen patrolling Beit Omar near Hebron. One border policeman was lightly injured and taken to a hospital. *Tim*

Hanegbi to be questioned again today

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi will be questioned for the third time this morning by the police team investigating the Bar-On Affair. Police are expected to question Hanegbi over a tape-recorded meeting with MKs about Roni Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general. Police believe that the probe will be completed this week. *Raine Marcus*

Court bars 2 from aliya until December 1998

The High Court of Justice yesterday ruled that two American Jews denied entry to Israel cannot come here before December 1998. Shelly Benvenisti, a Miami journalist, and Hillel Blaustein, an accountant from Philadelphia, were on a list of seven people denied entry to Israel after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin murder on the grounds that they had criminal records or constituted a security threat. The two petitioned the court, presenting testimony from the FBI that they did not have criminal records and stated that they had not been involved in illegal political activities. After hearing evidence in camera from security sources, the court ruled that the ban, which went into effect in December 1995, would remain effective for three years. *Batsheva Tsur*

IMA, ministries reach agreement on hospitals

Overcrowded conditions in hospital internal-medicine departments will be eased due to last night's agreement by the Finance and Health Ministries and the Israel Medical Association to add 360 doctors' job slots and 90 duty doctors according to a timetable to be decided on in the coming days. The government agreed to the building of facilities for 1,200 additional beds in the public hospitals, in addition to room for 650 beds currently under construction. The agreement was approved by the Treasury's deputy budget chief Haim Peltz after it was facilitated by Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza and his director-general, Prof. Gabi Barabash. The IMA had threatened to hold a 24-hour warning strike unless such an agreement was signed. *Judy Siegel*

Reset clocks on Thursday

Daylight saving time begins at midnight between Thursday and Friday and lasts until midnight on September 13, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Interior Minister Eli Suissa has submitted a bill to schedule DST for several years at a time, so that the Knesset does not have to discuss it every year. Suissa also has announced that a committee is being formed to examine the issue of scheduling DST. *Tim*

Rabbinate advocates 'conversion law'

The Chief Rabbinical Council yesterday called on the Knesset to pass a conversion law which would deny recognition to conversions carried out by Conservative and Reform rabbis, both in Israel and abroad. The current draft law would restrict recognized conversions performed in Israel to those approved by the Chief Rabbinate. However, the council called upon the Knesset to grant recognition only to those conversions which were "carried out according to Halacha." It also proposed the establishment of special offices to deal with immigrants whose status as Jews is in question. *Haim Shapiro*

Netanya grandmother, 51, has baby boy

A 51-year-old Netanya grandmother of two has given birth to a healthy baby boy in a normal delivery without having had any fertility treatments. The woman, a kindergarten teacher, suddenly discovered she was pregnant in the third month, astounding doctors. The couple have a 31-year-old son and two younger daughters, and two grandchildren aged four and one. She was put under supervision at the high-risk pregnancy unit at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava and baby Ro'i Netanel was born a few days ago. Unaided conception by a 51-year-old woman is very rare. *Judy Siegel*



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat presents a copy of her report on party funding in last year's elections to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

6 parties fined for funding violations

By BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday fined six parties for funding irregularities during the last Knesset election. Ben-Porat imposed fines of NIS 2,187,625 on the Likud, NIS 2,365,000 on the Labor Party, NIS 1,138,020 on the National Religious Party, NIS 344,600 on the Third Way, NIS 336,500 on Shas, and NIS 135,000 on Meretz. Efraim Gur's Ahdut Party, which did not get into the Knesset, was fined for not presenting its books. The other parties presented balanced books. According to the new law governing party funding, permissible individual contributions to parties were reduced from NIS 24,000 to NIS 1,200, while government funding was increased by 30 percent. The law stipulates that the parties must present their books to the comptroller. Speaking at a Knesset ceremony after presenting her report to Speaker Dan Tichon, Ben-Porat noted that, since this was the first time that the law was in force, she had decided to take a lenient approach. She also called for new legislation regarding

parties which do not succeed in getting into the Knesset.

Ben-Porat pointed to another serious defect in the new legislation. It does not provide for additional funding for lists headed by a person who is also running for prime minister under the new law for the direct election of the premier. "It is fitting that the legislature consider this point," she said.

The last election had produced a new phenomenon, Ben-Porat said. "There was a widespread phenomenon of propaganda carried out by various bodies and extra-party organizations in the form of advertisements in the media, posters in the streets, and stickers. The expenditure for this propaganda, which amounts to millions of shekels, is not reflected in the factions' expenses."

She said the worst offenders were the two large parties. "People who realized they could not, under the new law, make contributions to the parties, did so instead via advertising in the media," she said. She said that any form of free service to a party from a professional is also an offense.

Ben-Porat said that the parties had disclaimed the advertisers and had charged that stopping such ads would be tantamount to inhibiting free speech, but she does not agree.

The Third Way, she said, was fined for receiving too large a contribution while it was being set up, and for receiving money from people who do not have the right to vote.

Ben-Porat said that "an examination of the books [of the Likud and Labor] revealed that the factions had not reflected the money spent on the many advertisements in the press and posters in the streets in their expenditures."

The Likud attributed its violations to the new direct election law and called for amending the Party Funding Law to reflect these changes.

The NRP was fined for overspending its budget by more than NIS 3 million.

In a separate report on current expenditures, Ben-Porat noted that the NRP is continuing to overspend.

NRP secretary-general Zevulun Orlev attributed the overspending to the fact that the allowable expenditures were calculated on the basis of the six MKs the party had in the last Knesset and not the nine it has in the current one. He also noted that he would convene the party secretariat to draw the necessary conclusions from the comptroller's report.

Meretz, on the other hand, was fined for "a small number" of advertisements in the press. Meretz later said it is considering petitioning the High Court of Justice, since the reference was to two ads placed by the anti-religious coercion group Hemdat without the party's knowledge.

Shas was fined for turning an El Hama'ayan rally into a party rally and for receiving a contribution from a non-recognized body.

UTJ plans bills on graves and conversions

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of the United Torah Judaism faction in the Knesset met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday to continue the discussion on implementing the clauses of the coalition agreement on religious issues.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was also present.

According to a UTJ spokesman it was decided to present a bill on conversion to the cabinet at its next meeting with the intention of bringing it to a vote in the Knesset plenum before the Pessah recess at the beginning of next month.

It was also decided to present the cabinet with a proposal to establish a ministerial committee to deal with problems of ancient graves turned up by archaeological excavations.

The UTJ faction members raised the matter of threats by Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and city councillors against businessman Lev Leviev for saying he would keep the Ramat Aviv shopping mall closed on Shabbat.

The MKs called the threats "serious" and an attempt to desecrate Shabbat as well as violate civil law. They said this is the first time in the state's history that threats have been made to persuade someone to break both religious law and the law of the land.

The MKs added this could also have severe economic repercussions, as Jewish businessmen might not want to invest money here if doing so means being a party to Shabbat desecration.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 5-11
Tel Aviv 10-14
Haifa 10-14
Tiberias 7-16
Afula 9-15
Samarita 6-10
BeerSheva 8-16
Dead Sea 12-21
Eilat 10-22

Forecast: Rain and thunder storms.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather		
Amsterdam	06	43	09	cloudy	
Berlin	07	34	10	cloudy	
Brussels	17	63	64	cloudy	
Cairo	11	25	18	partly cloudy	
Chicago	-02	28	05	41	cloudy
Copenhagen	08	43	17	08	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	48	13	26	cloudy
Geneva	08	43	17	08	cloudy
Helsinki	-07	19	04	39	clear
Hong Kong	22	85	21	70	cloudy
Istanbul	11	52	29	79	clear
London	11	57	18	63	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	14	57	18	64	cloudy
Moscow	07	45	09	72	clear
Montreal	-14	07	00	32	clear
Madrid	-03	27	02	36	clear
New York	-03	27	02	36	clear
Paris	09	48	15	59	partly cloudy
Rome	11	57	18	63	clear
Stockholm	-06	21	04	39	clear
Sydney	19	68	28	79	partly cloudy
Tokyo	04	38	06	43	clear
Toronto	-14	07	00	32	clear
Vienna	06	43	10	50	cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, jack of hearts, eight of diamonds and king of clubs.

BACKGROUND

From Rehov Bar-Ilan to Ramat Aviv

By HERB KEINON

If you thought the haredi-secular confrontation on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan was full of "action," consider the following scenario: a convoy of cars driving through Bnei Brak on Shabbat.

That is exactly what no less a personage than Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo suggested Sunday night at a Tel Aviv City Council meeting, if the Africa-Israel Company goes ahead with plans to keep its soon-to-be-completed mall in Ramat Aviv closed on Shabbat.

The convoys dovetail nicely with other threats Milo has made against Africa-Israel and its controlling shareholder, Lev Leviev, if they close the mall on Shabbat.

Degel Hatorah MKs Moshe Gafni and Avraham Polivitz filed a complaint with the police last week against Milo and Deputy Mayor Dan Darin (Meretz), for declaring the city would boycott Africa-Israel and deny them building rights if the mall is closed on Shabbat.

Yesterday Gafni said he will

file another complaint against Milo for his threat to lead the convoys into Bnei Brak. He noted this would be illegal, since Shabbat traffic on Bnei Brak's residential streets is banned by local ordinance.

At issue is the Ramat Aviv mall, and such values as the right of a businessman to do what he wants with his business, and the right of the public to shop and eat McDonald's cheeseburgers on Saturday. Leviev has within a matter of weeks gone from an anonymous millionaire to a household name.

A man who made his fortune in diamonds, Leviev is reportedly now being blessed by Rav Eliezer Schach for standing by his religious principles and cursed by Am Hofshi, a group of secular activists threatening a consumer boycott of the mall.

Leviev, who wears a black kippa and is rumored to have a connection with Habad, acquired 46 percent of the controlling shares in Africa-Israel in November for \$189 million.

The business daily *Globes* reported that he plunked this money down "out of his own pocket." Leviev, one of Israel's biggest diamond exporters, holds interests in diamond mines in various countries and is also active in currency trading.

Soon after taking over Africa-Israel, Leviev instructed a representative of the company to see to what extent its holdings were violating Shabbat.

Earlier this month Africa-Israel's board decided that when the mall opens in a few months' time, it will close its doors on Shabbat.

That was what it took to send everyone to their moral barricades: the religious saying Leviev has the right to close the mall on Shabbat, even if it is in a mainly secular area, since the mall is his; and the secular saying their lifestyle, indeed their very freedom in secular Tel Aviv, are under the gun.

Overnight the Ramat Aviv mall joined Rehov Bar-Ilan, the City of David archaeological digs, the Ramot Road, the Ramot swimming pool, the Tiberias hotels, the French Hill interchange and Mea Shearim as yet another milestone in the never-ending Wars of the Jews. The issues remain the same: only the name and locations seem to change - and at increasingly frequent intervals.

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